

Thursday, February 19, 2004

# The Almagest

Volume 45, Issue 4

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LSU SHREVEPORT

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## WEEKLY WEATHER

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Cloudy

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## Faculty debates solution to traffic accidents

BY NEIL CASSARD

On the morning of Feb. 11, there was yet another traffic accident occurred at the front entrance to LSUS. This most recent accident, as well as one last week and the recent loss of our beloved mascot George to a freight driver, sparked a faculty discussion about the hazards of campus traffic.

Dr. Richard Mabry, a professor of mathematics, started the campus-wide debate with an e-mail entitled "too chicken to cross the road." The original e-mail contained links to a Web site illustrating the traffic problems and his ideas on how to fix it. Mabry also wrote in his e-mail, "While we are addressing the problem of student retention, I note that one good way to retain students is to not let them get killed when they leave campus."



Nikki Mora

Frequent wrecks at the intersection of Youree Drive and Millicent Way have sparked debate among faculty members recently.

Though last week's accident was relatively minor, it brought up questions about the design of all the intersections at the exits of

the campus. According to University Police Chief Larry Laborde, the intersection of Youree Drive and Millicent Way has problems with both traffic flow

and traffic enforcement—two things that the University Police have no say in because it falls outside their jurisdiction.

"I think it is a poorly engineered intersection," said Laborde. According to him, there are more accidents at Youree Drive and Millicent Way than there are at the far busier intersection of Youree Drive and Bert Kouns, he said.

Youree Drive is actually Louisiana Highway 1, which places it and the design of its intersections under the control of the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development.

A traffic study of the intersection is currently in the works, and when it is concluded, the state will decide what action, if any, should be taken.

SEE TRAFFIC PAGE 6

## "Laissez les bons temps rouler"



Nikki Mora

Freshman Sammy Robinson, a business major, and Captain Francis Flentroy take a break from the Mardi Gras festivities in the UC during common hour Tuesday, Feb. 17.

## German students study, learn Louisiana culture



Candice Leone

German visitors (left to right): Thorsten Schlueter, Daniel Powocik and Tjarvo Wegener

BY SARA SULLIVAN

The size of the roads, cars, refrigerators and televisions came as a surprise to German students visiting the United States. For the second year, students from Fachhochschule Nordosthiedersachsen (FHNON) - University of Applied Sciences, stayed in Shreveport to attend classes at LSUS.

Jennifer Zollner, first year

German business law major, explained that everything is bigger here than it is in Germany.

"The apple juice is so big that I have to hold it with both hands," she said.

Zollner said that most of her expectations of America came from TV. She was surprised by the friendliness

of the American people because of a stereotype in Germany that Americans only communicate on the surface.

During their week long stay, the group of 20 German students were able to experience life as Americans by staying with faculty, students and friends of LSUS.

Students attended daily seminars by LSUS faculty as well as

SEE GERMANY PAGE 7



# The Almagest Staff

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Suzanne Bright, faculty adviser

### Corrections

No corrections this week.

### Editorial Policy

The information presented in this publication by no means reflects the opinions of the administration or staff of LSUS. *The Almagest* seeks to provide information for the LSUS campus and community; to involve students, faculty and staff; and to provide a public forum for ideas as guaranteed in the First Amendment of the Constitution. Letters to the Editor are encouraged. However, the staff reserves the right to edit letters for clarity, length, and content. Any letter submitted by a club or organization must be signed by all members of the group or by the group's president. *The Almagest* reserves the right not to publish submitted materials.

*The Almagest* is published on Thursday mornings and is printed by the Natchitoches Times.

Comments and complaints are welcome and should be addressed to Candice Leone, Editor-in-Chief. They must be accompanied by your full name and email address.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

Everyone has their own opinions about whether or not anything Chancellor Vincent Marsala said in his October meeting with the College of Education and Human Development was racist or in any way inappropriate. I will not try to persuade anyone to lean towards one side of the issue or the other, as I certainly have no more knowledge on what did or did not take place than anyone else in the university community has. What I would like to do, however, is address Chancellor Marsala's disturbing reaction to the very mentioning of the meeting.

In my Feb. 10 column for *The (Shreveport) Times* on how recent incidents affect the racial climate in the area, I made brief mention of the controversy. I said nothing of whether or not I thought that Maxie Foster's claims were legitimate and made it clear that it was Foster's interpretation that Chancellor Marsala's comments were racist, not my own. Immediately following this, I addressed the possibility that such comments could be wrongly interpreted or unintended.

Nevertheless, Chancellor Marsala responded to what I had written by claiming that I was being divisive and attempting to incite citizens, as well as smear his reputation. Considering the fact that I did not even offer an opinion on what had taken place, I find his claims to be both ill natured and irresponsible. Given his position, I expected more from the chancellor.

He also suggested that writers like myself are to blame for the lack of racial harmony in our community. Simply because I made mention of how someone interpreted his comments, he insinuates that the racial climate is poor because of me. This knee-jerk reaction of pointing fingers is, for lack of a better term, immature.

In his response, Chancellor Marsala more than once says that I did not have my facts straight. If this is true, I welcome him to point out any specifics that were incorrect. I believe that such claims certainly need to be substantiated.

Making off-the-wall statements about, questioning the motives of, and pointing fingers at those who make only brief mention of the controversy smacks of an attempt to intimidate people from bringing the issue up at all. I think the chancellor fails to realize that his strange reactions probably do little more than to cause more people to reconsider what was or was not said, given their overly defensive nature.

Jason Jones  
Freshman  
Political Science

\*\*\*Editor's Note: The following is the Letter to the Editor from Chancellor Marsala that appeared in *The Times* on Friday, Feb. 13, 2004. Jason Jones makes reference to this in his letter to the *Almagest* above.\*\*\*

I was dismayed at the careless journalism exhibited by the columnist Jason Jones in *The Times* on Feb. 10. He, of course, is entitled to his opinion; however, he at least needs to get his facts straight.

The facts are that in addressing the College of Education faculty, I took the very unnewsworthy action of urging them to vote in the upcoming election for governor. I noted that it was a historic election in that two minorities were in the runoff, namely, Kathleen Blanco, a woman of Cajun heritage, and Bobby Jindal, an Indian-American. I stand by my statement.

My record on race relations and respect for diversity is one of which I am proud and requires no defense. But Jones has his facts wrong in his column, and it's irresponsible to have it

appear in print without correction. To cite my use of the word "minority" as an example of "another election-related racial controversy" is in itself divisive and an attempt to incite our citizens and smear my reputation.

My position as a chancellor of LSUS requires that I provide leadership for our university in our community and that I ensure diversity and equal treatment for all. I certainly hope the editorial page editors of *The Times* understand that they have a responsibility to make sure that loose, potentially hurtful labels are not used lightly in the newspaper. The danger of careless writing as exemplified in Jason Jones' column is that citizens become suspicious of its validity when racism does raise its ugly head. *The Times* and its writers must be held to a higher standard of reporting, or we will never achieve racial harmony in our community.

Vincent J. Marsala  
Chancellor

## The Almagest letters policy

*The Almagest* requests your reactions through letters to the editor. Letters should be typed and double spaced. Please include your classification and major. Letters should be submitted to *the Almagest* office, BH 344, by 5 p.m. on the Friday preceding the Thursday publication date. Obscene, libelous and anonymous letters will not be printed.

*The Almagest* reserves the right to edit all letters.



# Rats found again in science department



N. J. McMICHAEL

**The rats reportedly fed off of the companions of the insects pictured above.**

BY JENNIFER GANEY

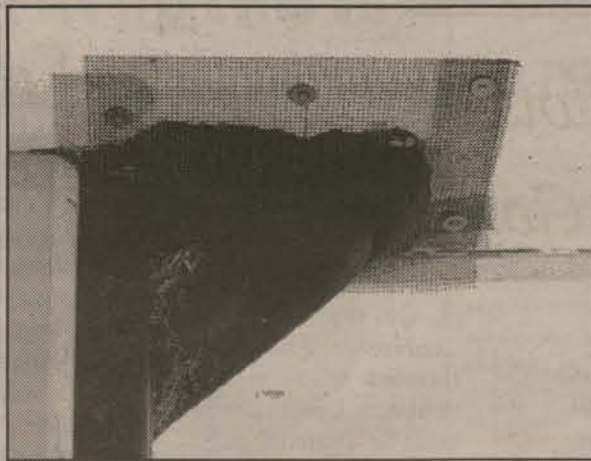
Rats have once again been found in the Sciences Building. After a semester of hard work and dedication to the life cycles of science, Dr. Beverly Burden discovered recently that half of her colony of caterpillars had been eaten.

Burden housed her caterpillars in small cups filled with a gelatin-like substance in order to analyze the transformation from a caterpillar to a moth. Burden found that the cups had been gnawed from the bottom and the caterpillars and jelly were missing. The culprits, which were assumed to be rats, had eaten half of Burden's colony, leaving her with only 75 caterpillars to study.

According to Dr. Stephenie Aamott, the chairman of the science department,

said the rats may have also taken a home in the building because of the many chemical compounds found in each substance of food. Aamott said that this is not the first time rats have taken residence in the science department and not likely the last. Both Aamott and Burden said the problem has been solved and the rats have been removed.

The size and number of rats are questionable, since only one professor has seen a rat. While checking on supplies in the autoclave room, Dr. Dalton Gossett saw a rodent scuttle across the room. He said that the rat was large and was most likely living in the room because of the excess heat



N. J. McMICHAEL

**The hole in the ceiling outside of the Sciences Building is suspected to be the site of entry.**

the rats migrated into the Sciences Building to keep out of the cold. She

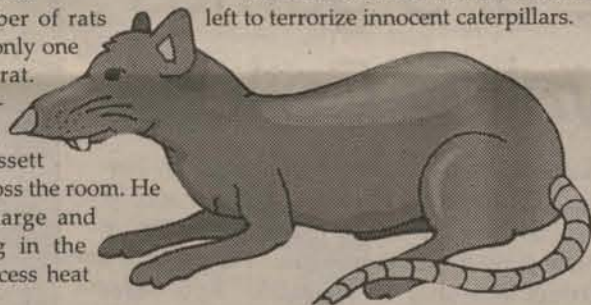
from the sterilization machines. However, that was the only reported sighting in the building.

Burden said that Facility Services were very timely in getting an exterminator on campus.

"I was impressed at how quickly (Facility Services) responded and got the job done," said Burden.

Burden set out rat poison and food pellets to see if any rats remained. However, there were no pellets missing or even disturbed.

Burden concludes there are no rats left to terrorize innocent caterpillars.



# Web services getting facelift for summer

BY SARA SULLIVAN

Beginning this summer, students will no longer have to go to the Admissions Office to change their address or get a copy of an unofficial transcript. These and other services will be available through Web Services beginning with the Summer / Fall 2004 registration.

A new feature of the of the Web interface system will also allow students to apply for their financial aid online. Students can authorize payment of financial aid to LSUS and apply it to their bill. If students are unsure of their financial aid status, the Web interface system will allow students to find out what documents they need for financial aid to be processed properly.

"This will eliminate a lot of visits to the Admissions Office," said Jen Carter, acting registrar and director of admissions.

Data Coordinator Shannon Needham explained that registration online will be more user-friendly. The brows-

er that students use to add and drop classes can be used to search the schedule for classes at the same time. The old system used two browsers.

"We wanted to provide more features to help students and aide faculty in advising," said Scott Hardwick, as-

advisers. If a student loses his or her degree checkout form, it will be accessible anytime online.

Hardwick said that the university has been working on the new system since last February and testing it since early summer.

"We have tried to eliminate problems students may encounter by having LSUS staff use the system like students," explained Carter. "It has been high priority across the whole institution."

"I think everybody will be impressed," said Hardwick. "It has been a long, devoted year of time. The new features will far outweigh new changes that we have to make."

He explained that the university had been looking several years for a new solution that would allow the university to better service students and faculty at LSUS.

"It's a really great idea," said LaShae Brittain, a junior fine arts major.

"I wish they would have done it a lot sooner," she said.

**"We wanted to provide more features to help students and aide faculty in advising ....."**

**-Scott Hardwick  
Assistant Network Administrator**

sistant network administrator.

Web services will still provide existing services, but they will be more efficient and user-friendly.

Hardwick said that future plans of Web Services include online degree checkouts. After a student registers, the system will automatically fill in the student's degree checkout form, which is currently filled out by faculty

# Rooster's death stirs up sentiment

BY BRANDI REGISTER

George the rooster, LSUS' mascot, died Tuesday, Feb. 10, after being run over by a delivery truck bound for the bookstore.

George was not the first rooster on our campus; he is the son of a previous campus pet, Henrietta the hen. Henrietta preferred the Business Education building and laid her eggs there. George was somewhat of a miracle child, because Henrietta laid many eggs, but very few were fertile.

The roosters and chickens that have occupied the campus ground had some very interesting patterns.

"(The roosters and chickens) stayed around the Business and Education building during the day," said Sandra Gilleland, a secretary for Facilities Services. "As evening approached, they would walk to the other side of campus, visit at KDAQ a while and then cross the parking lot to go and roost in the tree beside the Physical Plant each night."

**"We must find the murderers that are responsible for this heinous crime."**

**-Amanda Reese  
History major**

George was apparently holding true to this routine; he was killed early in the morning as he was heading back towards the B.E. building for his daytime activities.

Some students are upset about George's death, and others are outraged and demand that George's killers be found.

"We must find the murderers that are responsible for this heinous crime," said Amanda Reese, a junior history major. "Truly, he was a part of our campus and will be missed."

Some students look to the philosophy of others to find peace in this sad time.


"In the words of Dr. Evil, from Austin Powers 'I am sure I would get another one, but there would be this ten-minute period when I would be inconsolable,'" said Josh Grisham, a senior business management major.

Dr. Rick Mabry, a math professor, summed up the sad tone of the incident: "Why, oh why, did this chicken cross the road? Well, we can hope that he has now made it to the other side."





## SPORTS

Pilots beat Blazers,  
Golden Nuggets


through-  
out the  
game and  
beat the Blazers

97-88.

BY PRISCILLA TURNER

The Pilots were on a four game winning streak as they faced the Belhaven Blazers on Monday, Feb. 9. The Pilots beat the Blazers once already in a game earlier this season.

Going into the half the Pilots were ahead 40-38 after an early lead by the Blazers.

The Pilots kept their lead

LSUS Pilot Fredericko Payne is 5th in the NAIA and first in conference in scoring.

Doug Robinson, athletic director, said that Payne is a team player and often gives up shots to help his teammates. Robinson said the Pilots played an outstanding, fast-paced game against the Blazers.

With the win, the Pilots

were 9-1 at home and were fifth place in the Gulf Coast Athletic Conference when they Pilots traveled to face off against Southern University-New Orleans on Thursday Feb. 12. They beat Southern at home 97-92 in January, but lost 97-73 in New Orleans.

The Pilots traveled to Xavier University in New Orleans on Feb. 14 to face off against the only team that has beaten the Pilots at home. The men got their revenge against 12th-ranked Xavier; they won 75-69. At press time, the Pilots were ranked 15-11 in season play and 8-6 in conference play.

LSUS Pilots take 2 of 3 games  
against Missouri Valley College

BY NIKKI BUTLER

After the rain and snow delayed Saturday's double header, the LSUS Pilots played in their first ever triple-header Sunday, Feb. 15 against the 31st ranked Missouri Valley College Vikings. Gene Stevens, senior pitcher for the Pilots, opened the day and pitched a complete game. Stevens gave up only one run and 5 hits, and fanned 4 MVC hitters.

Thomas McMannis sparked the Pilots' lead with a two-run homerun in the bottom of the first inning. His hit ended up being the game-winning homer. McMannis was 1-2 for the game with 2 RBI's. The Pilots defense managed to hold the Vikings and they won the game with a final score of 2-1.

Sam Alphonse, a junior pitcher from For-docag, La., made his Pilot debut in the second game of the day. He threw 6 innings, giving up only one earned run on two hits. He also had 4 strikeouts and only three walks. Kyle Mace sparked the LSUS offense in the 2nd inning with a three-run homerun over the right field wall. Mace finished the game 1-3 with 4 RBI's. The Pilots went on to win the game 5-3.

Unfortunately, the Pilots just couldn't keep their efforts up in the third game. The Vikings scored 3 runs in the first inning of the game against pitcher Jeremy Chabot, who handed the Pilots their first loss of the season. Kevin Jewell came in later in the game to stop the Vikings' offense. Freshman Jeff Ledet was 2-2 in the game with 2 stolen bases. Ledet scored the only two runs for the Pilots in the third game.

Kevin Lundberg, catcher for the MVC Vikings, was 4-4 in the game, bringing MVC's record to 2-2 for the year. The game resulted in defeat for the Pilots, with a score of 7-2.

The Pilots ended their opening weekend with a record of 3-1. They will be action again Tues. in Magnolia, Ark. against the Southern Arkansas Muleriders.

They will play their first Gulf Coast Athletic Conference game next Friday at home against the Springhill College Badgers in a three-game series. The first game will be played Friday night at 6:30 followed by a double header on Saturday at 1 p.m.

## Lady Pilots fall to Blazers

BY PRISCILLA TURNER

The Lady Pilots were trying to avenge an earlier season loss against the Belhaven Blazers, who were one below them in Gulf Coast Athletic Conference play when they squared off on Monday, Feb. 9. The Lady Pilots were down 38-21 at the half and never overcame the Blazers' lead; they lost 65-49. The Lady Pilots are 5-4 at home.

Traveling throughout the weekend, the Lady Pilots took on the women of Southern University-New Orleans and the women of Xavier University. The Pilots beat Southern in a home game in January but lost to the 13th ranked Golden Nuggets of Xavier five days later. The Lady Pilots lost to the women of Southern 75-64.

Despite the loss, Dyanmond Hogg achieved a personal season high score; she scored 21 points against the Golden Nuggets.

The Lady Pilots played Xavier University on Saturday and lost 62 to 51.

## WANNA WRITE?

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# Pilots open season with 13-4 win against Louisiana College

BY NIKKI BUTLER

The LSUS baseball team opened its season at

home Friday in an exciting game against the Louisiana College Wildcats. Despite the freezing temperatures, the Pilots were able to defeat the Wildcats 13-4.

Mitchell Person, a senior pitcher for the Pilots, had a good start to his season by starting the game and pitching four scoreless innings. The only three base runners allowed by Person included a walk in the first inning, a single in the second inning, and a hit batter in the fourth inning. Person is now 1-0 for the year.

Dustin Bissonette led the Pilot

offense. He was 4-4 with a run scored and 2 runs batted in.

Jeremy Chabot also led the Pilots, scoring 3 of the 13 runs, including an RBI double in the fourth inning.

The LSUS freshmen also did a great job of adding to the Pilot offense, bringing in their first hits of their college careers. Freshman Troy Vaughn's RBI fielder's choice in the first inning gave the Pilots their first run of the year.

Vaughn was 1-3 with 2

runs scored in his college debut. Jeffrey Ledge hit a single with the bases loaded in the third inning and drove in two runs for the Pilots. Brian Cooksey brought in a single in the fourth inning and Jordan Bias also hit a single in the fifth inning and had 2 runs for the day, giving another strong showing for the freshmen.

The Pilots nearly shut out the Wildcats, but the Wildcats were able to come back with 4 runs in the

top of the seventh inning off of sophomore pitcher David Alexander. The only offensive showing the Wildcats were able to make was after two LSUS defensive miscues followed by 4 singles.

The LSUS Pilots combined 13 runs on 13 hits and committed only 3 errors in the field. The LC Wildcats finished with only 4 runs on 5 hits and committed 8 errors in the field.

The LSUS players and coaches were thrilled with the success of their first game, and said this was only the begin-

ning and there is much more excitement to come.

# Republican club hopes to reinstate local chapter

BY ERIC PULSIFER

The College Republican Club may be returning to campus after nearly a decade of absence. Jay Emmons, a graduate student in human services administration, is reconstructing the group.

According to Emmons, the club has been off campus since 1995 but is now in the process of gaining permanent status and should be up and running by spring.

Emmons said he decided to start the club after opposition to his beliefs from students and teachers.

"In class we've got people that say stuff like 'The only reason we went to Iraq is for the oil.' Well, I'd like to debate that, because I don't believe that's the case," he said.

He said the opposition was so bad that he originally screened his calls through a different number to deter belligerent callers.

Emmons said his main goal is to fight ignorance on campus.

"I hear so many [unsupported] facts, even coming from teachers. If the teachers are wrong, imagine what the students are thinking," said Emmons.

Emmons also aims to get people informed and involved in voting through the club.

"I wanted to get a bunch of ideas out there and get people more politically active," he said. "Lots of people sit around and complain, but they don't have the right to if they won't even bother to vote."

Despite the club's title, Emmons is quick to point out that the club isn't reserved for people who can so easily label their political views.

"Don't be afraid of the name; it's only a name," said Emmons. "You can al-

ways come in and feel free to discuss what you want, and no

one is going to tear your head off. The meetings will be an open forum where people can discuss their political views. I'm hoping to get some teachers involved in debate as well."

Emmons wants the club to be a useful tool for both political parties.

"It gives Republicans a pedestal to support their ideas and candidates. It also gives Democrats a chance to challenge us. I want the debate. Both sides need to be heard because if they're not, everybody loses," he said.

"I'm told I'm a terrible person because I'm a Republican, but I'm not a die-hard Republican, by any means," he said.

Emmons admits that his mix of views has put him at odds with both political parties.

"I'm pro-choice, whereas most Republicans are pro-life," said Emmons. "I believe in the de-criminalization of some drugs. I'm kind of a left-wing Republican. My friends have even called me a radical Republican."

Emmons said he feels that political preference is less important than participation.

"I want everybody involved because the youth will play a big part in the 2004 election. Hopefully, we can educate at least a few people to make a more informed decision," Emmons said.

Emmons said he hopes to teach political science at LSUS someday.

"Twenty years from now, I don't want a bunch of uneducated people running the country," he said.

For more information, contact Emmons at 469-7741.

# the Almagest

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**TRAFFIC**

*continued from page 1*

Also discussed were the increasingly problematic rear exits to the campus along East Kings Highway. Recent development along East Kings Highway has increased traffic behind the campus. This has led to a sometimes several-minute wait to exit the campus during peak traffic hours. Laborde said that installing traffic lights at the two intersections behind the campus would likely lead to more traffic problems than there currently

are. Instead, Laborde suggested that drivers should approach with caution and beware of heavy traffic and speeders.

Another traffic issue is thru-traffic and speeders on campus, which sparked discussion at the last Faculty Senate meeting. The University Police Department lacks the manpower and resources to properly enforce campus speed limits, but Chief Laborde has requested motorcycle patrols from the City of Shreveport to come on campus and begin issuing citations.

## German program expands horizons

BY LAURIE DIJULIO

Students who want to study abroad will once again have the opportunity to travel to Germany and earn a three-hour credit for a business elective. Dr. Wolfgang Hinck, assistant professor of marketing at LSUS, will be making his sixth trip with students to the Fachhochschule Nordostniedersachsen (FHNON) in Lüneburg. The students will attend seminars on issues in European business at FHNON. In addition to these classes, several field trips are planned to Berlin, Hamburg and other various locations that are of interest both for the course and for sight-seeing. The course is from May 16 through June 5, and will allow students to be back home in time for the first term of the summer semester.

Hinck, who was born in Hamburg, believes this program provides an excellent learning experience for students.

"Students are exposed to different cultures and thus learn that the world outside of Shreveport is very different, especially outside the U.S.," said Hinck. "It widens their horizons."

According to Hinck, the trip has had lasting effects on students, and the travelers have become more open...he said some of them have even taken jobs overseas, because it gets them into "little explorer mode."

"They develop an explorer mentality and become interested in new things," said Hinck.

Wendy Simolke, a junior majoring in education, went on the trip last year.

"It was an experience of a lifetime," she said. "I learned more in those three weeks in Germany than I had all year."

Simolke said she thought the classes were very interesting, and that she enjoyed the field trips to Berlin, Hamburg and a concen-

tration camp.

"It was interesting being able to live like the locals and eat their foods," said Simolke.

She said she also found it helpful that Hinck was so familiar with the culture.

"It was great to have a professor from the country. Dr. Hinck is a great professor. He was always there for us, no matter what," she said.

Catherine Michelson, an LSUS marketing major who graduated in August, also took the course last year and said she had a positive experience. She recommends that all college students take advantage of this opportunity if at all possible.

"Everyone should go somewhere international," said Michelson. "It broadens your whole world. It was a life-changing experience for the better."

Michelson said one of her favorite aspects of the trip was the German people, she still keeps in touch with some of her new friends by e-mail.

"The people there were just great, and they all speak very good English," she said.

Michelson was able to pay back some of her gratitude to the Germans when a group of exchange students from Lüneburg came to LSUS last week, and she hosted two of them in her home.

Students are responsible for the cost of transportation to Germany, the three-credit hour tuition and \$550 for the group activity fund, which covers hotel accommodations, tour guides and transportation between sponsored events.

The German students of FHNON and their families host participating students during their stay.

For more information about the course, contact Hinck at 797-5268 or e-mail him at [whinck@pi-lot.lsus.edu](mailto:whinck@pi-lot.lsus.edu).



## Music review: The Format - Inventions and Lullabies

BY ERIC PULSIFER

Some coldhearted skeptics might dismiss the Format's excessively catchy brand of pop rock for being too unoriginal, or the lyrics for not having enough depth, but that would be missing the point entirely.

The Format, like tour mate Rocket Summer, is one of the few bands out today who drop the pretensions of emo and mainstream rock. Instead of jumping around on stage and spinning their guitars around their torsos desperately hoping to suck every bit of life out of dead trends, the Format stop trying so hard to be a rock band and in the process gracefully bestow upon listeners the perfect set of pop songs. These gems are wonderful in the way spinning in a chair until dizzy is great, because they're just fun.

These guys illustrate what pop music really is: not a three-second loop with a constantly repeated chorus that's forced

until every teenage kid in America is bound to find it "catchy." No, the gentlemen of the Format craft their songs in a way that is anything but a cheap marketing ploy.

It's happy, drum on your steering wheel, tap your toe, sing-along genius. All areas of the album's track are packed full of simple, yet undeniable hooks that will stay with you and remain fresh through the countless listens that are guaranteed to follow. They are one of the few artists that could use shakers, hand claps, tuba and tambourine in one song and pull it off flawlessly.

Think Phantom Planet, Rocket Summer or maybe even Ben Folds. Whoever you think they sound like isn't important; this is music at its best: for the people, not the critics. It's pure, joyful escapism that leaves behind the harshness of the world outside and the troubles of your day.

★★★★★

## GERMANY

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daily cultural experiences. The students visited the Pioneer Heritage Center, Sci-Port Museum, Barksdale Air Force Museum, Caddo Parish Court House, casinos and a shopping mall.

"The program is mixed in a very good way," said Dr. Thomas Schomerus, professor for public law at FH-NON, who has accompanied German students for the last six years to America.

The students were able to experience Mardi Gras first hand with a tour of the floats and participation in the parade.

The students tasted food unique to our area by dining at restaurants such as Superior Grill and Savoie's.

It was many of the students' first visit to the United States.

"They like [America], be-

cause of the immense hospitality, especially in the South," said Schomerus.

"It's a wonderful experience to stand in line at a fast food restaurant and the person in front of you starts to talk to you. [In Germany] It's unthinkable that you talk in such a friendly

manner to a total stranger," he said.

The students had three lectures a day, given by different professors.

"I like how the professors teach," said Jessica Lerche, a second year business law major. "They give structure."

Some

students said they could understand LSUS professors better than American English professors in Germany.

"Every professor gives his or her best," said Schomerus. "The lectures are good, high selective quality."

**"They like [America] because of the immense hospitality, especially in the South. [In Germany] it's unthinkable that you talk in such a friendly manner to a total stranger."**

**-Dr. Thomas Schomerus**  
Professor for public law at FH-NON

BY JASON LIMERICK

## Highwaymen

On Thursday, Feb. 12, I was one of many LSUS students who got a sneak peak of the new car-chase thriller "Highwaymen" starring Jim Caviezel ("The Passion of Christ") and Rhona Mitra ("The Life of David Gale"), and directed by Robert Harmon ("The Hitcher"). I gotta say, I didn't expect much. The marketing was bland at best, and the premise sounds like a Hollywood board meeting gone bad. I mean, who would have thought that a movie billed as "serial killers in cars" could turn out to be good...maybe even great?

This is the car movie I've been waiting to see. There's no frosty-haired boy-band-rejects racing candy-coated, shiny-rimmed, pretty-boy-toys for pink slips like "The Fast and The Furious" and there's no beautiful celebrities indulging their wild side by jacking luxury rides while Jerry Bruckheimer waxes sentimental with his I-thought-I-was-stylish quick cuts and bad cinematography like "Gone in Sixty Seconds."

This is two ugly guys in two ugly cars trying to kill each other, and doing a whole hell of a lot of cool stuff along the way. This is Caddy vs. Cuda in the world series of kick ass, and I had a great time watching it. There's a lot to rave about here.

All of the car combat scenes are amazing and the villain who could have been a god-awful cheese ball is pulled off with a creepy, understated grace. Caviezel, who is quickly becoming one of my favorite actors and a force to be reckoned with in Hollywood, handles the role perfectly, and once again adds to the depth of a relatively shallow concept.

Another rare aspect to this film was that it was short and that was great. Movies nowadays don't know when to quit. This flick was quick and to the point with no fluff, and it made use of every powerful minute. Also, the ending was perfect—and that's something you won't catch me saying often either.

All in all, it's not Oscar quality and it won't be for most, but if you're looking for fun at the movies—this is a great one to watch.

★★★★☆

## 50 First Dates

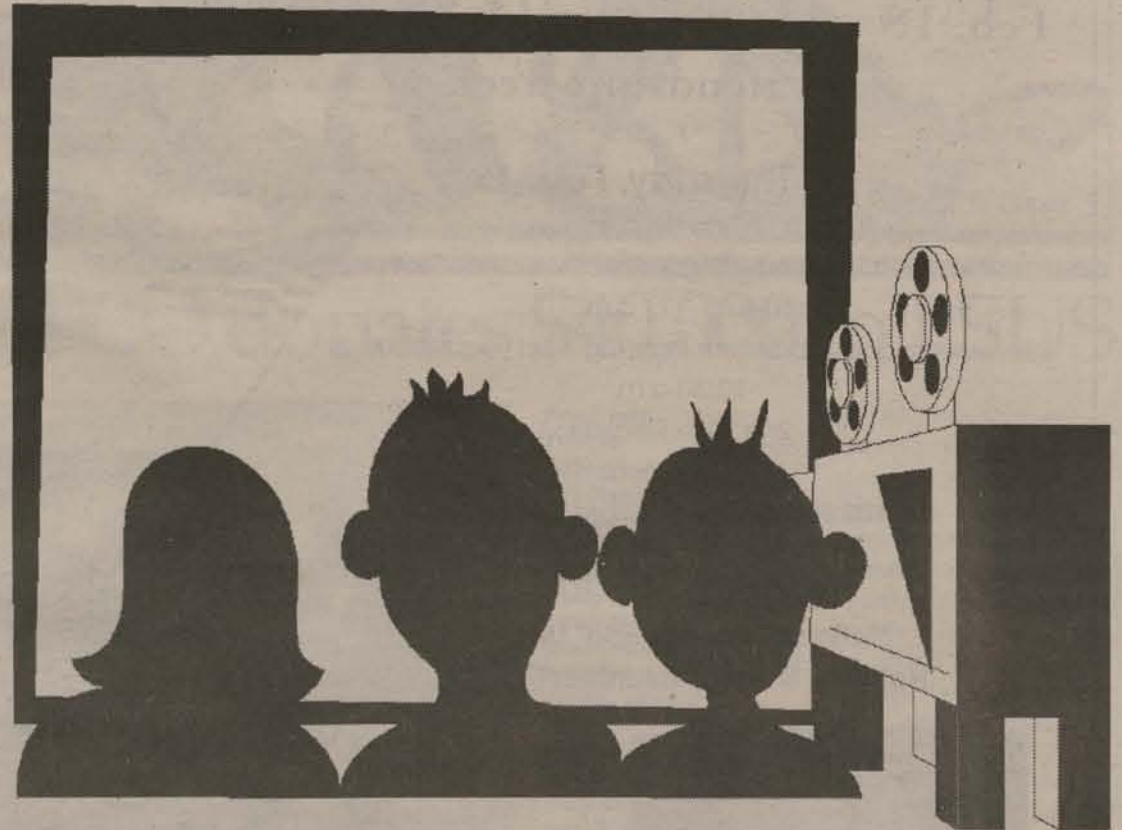
I had heard that this was originally supposed to be called "50 First Kisses" and that would have worked fine, but after seeing it I'd be inclined to call it "Adam Sandler All Grown Up." This starts as a typical Sandler pic—the first few minutes are complete with a screen full of walrus vomit, but soon turns on you and ends up being his most mature and

emotional film to date. The film has the same cast of freaks you'll find in any Happy Madison production, and you'll recognize a lot of references to his other movies.

The team of Adam Sandler and Drew Barrymore has been chatted up and hyped, and lives up to what's expected. The coy, unsure charisma of Sandler's lovable loser plays perfectly off of Barrymore's ever-smiling and lovable good girl. Another great performance comes from the sometimes genius, sometimes offensively bad Rob Schneider (The Animal) as Ula, a Hawaiian stoner who likes to swim with sharks and Sean Astin (Sam in "The Lord of the Rings" trilogy) as a steroid poppin' body builder with a lisp.

The surprise is in how mature the movie ends up. It handles serious issues with genuine emotion and tugs at the sober a little when you least expect it. I also liked the ending here. The typical Sandler "everybody's happy" ending is replaced with a real and appropriately touching finale. The bad part in this flick is mainly in most of the set up jokes. The first half of the movie is not really that funny at all. Overall, they do a good job but I can't help but to think about how "Groundhog Day" did the whole thing a million times better. It's just about the ultimate date movie with plenty of guy humor and loads of emotional punch...I recommend it.

★★★★☆





# Calendar of Events

Feb. 18 - 24 is National International  
Friendship Week

**Thursday, Feb. 19**

10:30 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.

SAB Speaker ~ Reggie Abrahms

10:30 a.m. - 11 a.m.

Interviewing and Job Search Planning - 3rd year GROUP 2

10:30 a.m.

2nd Year- Relaxation

5:30 p.m.

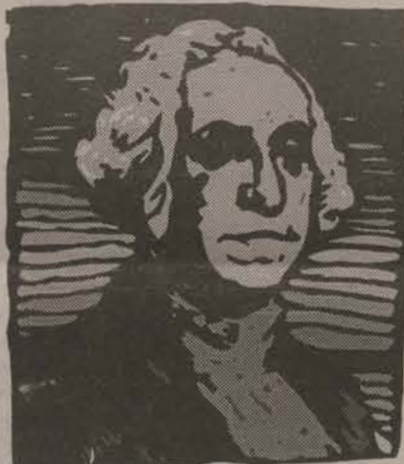
LSUS Basketball vs. Dillard University

**Friday, Feb. 20**

National "Hoodie-Hoo" Day

National Student Volunteer Day

Freshman Focus  
meeting 1 - 1st  
year



**Saturday, Feb. 21**

5:30 p.m.

LSUS Basketball vs. Springhill  
College

**Sunday, Feb. 22**

George Washington's Birthday



**Monday, Feb. 23**

Iwo Jima Day

**NO CLASSES**

**Tuesday, Feb. 24**



**NO CLASSES**

**Wednesday, Feb. 25**

12 p.m.

2nd Year-Education Advising

1 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Dangers of Credit Cards - 1st year

1:30 p.m.

SAB Meeting

**Thursday, Feb. 26**

National "For Pete's Sake" Day

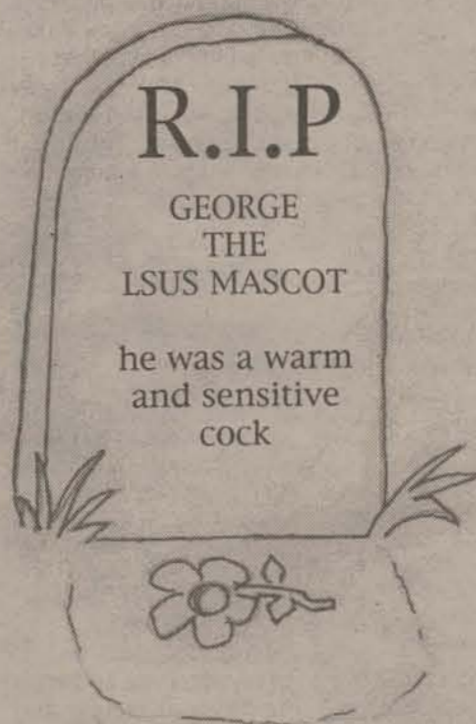
10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

SGA meeting

5:30 p.m.

LSUS Basketball vs. Loyola University

## AUTOPILOTS



I don't suppose  
you could have  
put r-o-o-s-t-e-r  
huh.

It wouldn't  
fit and I'm  
not going to  
rechisel!



BY JASON